



RHONDDA CYNON TAF

RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

6 NOVEMBER 2020

COMMUNITY LIAISON COMMITTEE

UPDATE REPORT

REPORT OF THE SERVICE DIRECTOR, DEMOCRATIC SERVICES AND COMMUNICATION.

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

The purpose of the report is to provide Members with an update in respect of:

- Democratic Services – Update
- Services Update
- Business Support Grants
- Consultations
- Forward Work Programme and Training requirements

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

2.1 It is recommended that the Community Liaison Committee:

- (i) Notes the updates provided within the report;
- (ii) Agree the future calendar dates proposed within the report
- (iii) Suggest suitable items for discussion for future meetings.

3. BACKGROUND

3.1 A number of items are under consideration by the Community Liaison Committee and this report looks to provide Members with details of the current status of these items to ensure Members are kept up to date.

3.2 The report also proposes a future calendar of meetings and to seek suggestions for future possible agenda items.

4. DEMOCRATIC SERVICES UPDATES

4.1 [The Local Authorities \(Coronavirus\) \(Meetings\) \(Wales\) Regulations 2020](#), published at the end of April, provided the opportunity for committee functions to operate virtually. The Council subsequently took an incremental approach

to the roll out of all Council committee meetings on a virtual basis and has now held meetings of Cabinet, Council and Scrutiny Committees virtually, including the Council [AGM on 16 September](#). It is envisaged that the Council will continue with its virtual meetings for the foreseeable future

- 4.2 As the rules and regulations in relation to services provided by the Local Authority are changing rapidly with local lockdowns and firebreak lockdowns, a verbal update will be provided to members on the day in relation to services provided by the local Authority.

5. **BUSINESS SUPPORT GRANTS**

- 5.1 Cabinet has agreed proposals to refocus the Council's business support grants due to unprecedented circumstances this year – including establishing new funds dedicated to town centre COVID-19 recovery and flood resilience.
- 5.2 At its virtual meeting on Thursday, 24 September, Cabinet considered a report outlining proposals to review the Council's Regeneration business grants portfolio. The proposals will enable the Council to provide investment in support of businesses, in response to the economic challenges they currently face due the impact of Storm Dennis and the Coronavirus emergency
- 5.3 Eligibility for the Town Centre Maintenance Grant will now be revised to include actions that facilitate social distancing such as small scale shop/building front modifications. Currently, the grant is limited to supporting traders and landlords to undertake minor improvements to their building fronts in order to improve the street scene – in Mountain Ash, Tonypany, Treorchy, Aberdare, Ferndale and Porth. It offers a contribution of 75% up to a maximum grant of £1,000, and where necessary a contribution of 75% towards skip/scaffold costs up to a maximum of £300.

6. **CONSULTATIONS**

- 6.1 Current consultation exercises being carried out by the Council are a little different at the moment due to the Coronavirus pandemic – but there are still a number of ways which residents will be able to participate in the process.
- 6.2 Residents can visit www.rctcbc.gov.uk/currentconsultations and complete the online survey. There is also a dedicated phone number, email and free post address for people to have their say. There will also be an opportunity for residents to join virtual public drop-in sessions on Zoom, while an Older Persons Advisory Group session will also be held on this platform.

7. **FUTURE MEETINGS**

7.1 To assist Members with their diaries the following dates have been proposed as future meeting dates of the Calendar. Members are asked that if agreed upon, these dates are added to Members dairies:

- Friday 15th January 2021
- Friday 12th March 2021
- Friday 30th April 2021

7.2.1 Members are asked to consider and advise upon any agenda items that they wish to see taken forward in the future to assist in the collaborative working of the Committee. The items on the Forward Work Programme for consideration at future meetings are as follows:

- Cwm Taf Public Service Board Wellbeing Objectives
- Public Rights of Way
- Consultations
- Environment Wales Act
- Local Government and Elections Bill

8. **EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS**

8.1 There are no Equality or Diversity implications aligned to this report

9. **CONSULTATION**

As part of each item various consultation meetings have taken place with Members / Officers and are advised upon within the report.

10. **FINANCIAL IMPLICATION(S)**

10.1 None.

11. **LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

11.1 None

12. **LINKS TO THE CORPORATE AND NATIONAL PRIORITIES AND THE WELL-BEING OF FUTURE GENERATIONS ACT.**

12.1 Working in partnership with the Town and Community Council's within Rhondda Cynon Taf links with the three priorities within the Corporate plan of People, Economy and Place, as it will help people and Communities to help themselves and assists in building a sustainable Rhondda Cynon Taf.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972

AS AMENDED BY

THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ACCESS TO INFORMATION) ACT 1985

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6 November 2020

REPORT OF THE HEAD OF DEMOCRATIC SERVICES